

In the claims:

1-31 Canceled

32. (Amended) A composition, comprising: [an] a therapeutically effective amount of a [bioactive] therapeutic agent, and a polymeric wax comprising the reaction product of a polybasic acid or derivative thereof, a fatty acid and a polyol, said wax having a melting point less than about 70°C, as determined by differential scanning calorimetry.

33. (Original) The composition of claim 32 wherein said polymeric wax comprises the reaction product of said polybasic acid or derivative thereof and a monoglyceride, said monoglyceride comprising the reaction product of said fatty acid and said polyol.

34. (Original) The composition of claim 32 wherein said polybasic acid or derivative thereof is selected from the group consisting of succinic acid, succinic anhydride, malic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, diglycolic acid, diglycolic anhydride, glutaric acid, glutaric anhydride, adipic acid, pimelic acid, suberic acid, sebacic acid and derivatives thereof.

35. (Original) The composition of claim 33 wherein said monoglyceride is selected from the group consisting of monostearoyl glycerol, monopalmitoyl glycerol, monomyristoyl glycerol, monocaproyl glycerol, monodecanoyl, monolauroyl glycerol, monolinoleoyl glycerol and monooleoyl glycerol.

36. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 35 wherein said polybasic acid derivative is succinic anhydride.

37. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 35 wherein said polybasic acid is succinic acid.

38. (Original) The composition of claim 32 wherein said polymeric wax has a number average molecular weight between about 1,000 g/mole and about 100,000 g/mole, as measured by gel permeation chromatography using polystyrene standards.

39. (Original) The composition of claim 32 wherein said polymeric wax is branched.

40. (Original) The composition of claim 32 wherein said polymeric wax comprises a copolymer.

41. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 40 wherein said polymeric wax copolymer comprises the reaction product of said fatty acid, said polyol, and at least two of said polybasic acids or derivatives thereof selected from the group consisting of succinic acid, succinic anhydride, malic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, diglycolic acid and diglycolic anhydride.

42. (Original) The composition of claim 40 wherein said polymeric wax copolymer comprises the reaction product of said polybasic acid or derivative thereof, and at least two monoglycerides selected from the group consisting of monostearoyl glycerol, monopalmitoyl glycerol, monomyristoyl glycerol, monocaproyl glycerol, monodecanoyl glycerol, monolauroyl glycerol, monolinoleoyl glycerol and monooleoyl glycerol.

43. (Amended) The composition of claim 40 wherein said polymeric wax copolymer comprises the reaction product of said polybasic acid or derivative thereof, a monoglyceride selected from the group consisting of monostearoyl glycerol, monopalmitoyl glycerol, monomyristoyl glycerol, monocaproyl glycerol, monodecanoyl glycerol, monolauroyl glycerol, monolinoleoyl glycerol and monooleoyl glycerol, and at least one additional polyol selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, 1,2-propylene glycol, 1,3-propanediol, bis-2-hydroxyethyl ether, 1,4-butanediol, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 1,8-octanediol, 1,10-decanediol, 1, 12-dodecanediol, [other diols,] linear poly(ethylene glycol), branched poly(ethylene glycol), linear poly(propylene glycol), branched poly(propylene glycol), linear poly(ethylene-co-propylene glycol)s and branched poly(ethylene-co-propylene glycol)s.

44. (Amended) The composition of claim 32 wherein said [bioactive] therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of antiinfectives, analgesics, anorexics, antihelmintics, antiarthritics, antiasthmatics, anticonvulsants, antidepressants, antidiuretics, antidiarrheals, antihistamines, antiinflammatory agents, antimigraine preparations, antinauseants, antineoplastics, antiparkinsonism drugs, antipruritics, antipsychotics, antipyretics, antispasmodics, anticholinergics, sympathomimetics, xanthine derivatives, calcium channel blockers, beta-blockers, antiarrhythmics, antihypertensives, diuretics, vasodilators, central nervous system stimulants, decongestants, hormones, steroids, hypnotics, immunosuppressives, muscle relaxants, parasympatholytics, psychostimulants, sedatives, tranquilizers, naturally derived or genetically engineered proteins, polysaccharides, glycoproteins, or lipoproteins, oligonucleotides, antibodies, antigens, cholinergics, chemotherapeutics, hemostatics, clot dissolving agents, radioactive agents and cystostatics.

45. (Amended) The composition of claim 44 wherein said [bioactive] therapeutic agent is risperidone.

46. canceled

47. canceled

48. (Original) The composition of claim 32 further comprising an aliphatic polyester prepared from the group of monomers consisting of glycolide, L-lactide, D-lactide, meso-lactide, rac-lactide, ϵ -caprolactone, trimethylene carbonate, p-dioxanone, 1,4-dioxanone, 1,4-dioxepan-2-one, 1,5-dioxepan-2-one and substituted derivatives thereof.

49-56 canceled

57. (Original) The composition of claim 32 wherein said polymeric wax has a melting point between about 25°C and about 70°C.

58. canceled